

Minotaurs to
play in
Sudbury p.4



Sports:
x-country, b-ball
and soccer. p.6



LAMBDA

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Dallaire speaks at LU

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

L. Gen Romeo Dallaire spoke at Laurentian University on Oct. 19, and his message was simple: Canada needs to get their youth engaged, and humans need to start treating other humans with respect.

Dallaire is known for his work in the military, his best-selling, award-winning book *Shake Hands with the Devil*, which detailed his time as the commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda, his humanitarian work, and his career as a politician.

Cathy Heffernan, a nurse with Sudbury Regional Hospital's Emergency Department, was responsible for bringing Dallaire back to Laurentian. She didn't mince words when discussing how important Dallaire was to Rwanda.

"There are three names that everybody knows in Rwanda; Oprah, David Beckham, and Romeo Dallaire," she says.

Capt. Ray Wiss, the longest serving M.D. in the Canadian Forces serving in Afghanistan, according to Dallaire, was also on-hand for the occasion.

The best-selling author of *Fob Doc* and *A Line in the Sand*, two books he wrote about his experiences in Afghanistan, introduced the L. Gen.

The sold-out crowd erupted into a standing ovation as Dallaire took to the stage.

"We are going to live an experience together, that is aimed at optimism in humanity, towards the planet, in our country, in our province, our community, and particularly our families and ourselves," Dallaire began.

"The future is full of opportunities; we are part of a nation that can significantly influence the future."

Dallaire spoke candidly about a major issue that is preventing positive change in Canada.

"Canadians are not engaged, and they are abdicating their responsibility in this great democracy."

He believes this issue is especially relevant among the youth.

"We must engage, we must become activists; the youth particularly must become activists," Dallaire says.

"The voting population between 18 and 30 represents 35 per cent of the whole voting population in Canada; yet, barely 15 per cent of them vote."



Photo by Andy Veilleux

L. Gen. Romeo Dallaire speaks with fans and signs books on Oct. 19, after he gave a sold-out presentation in the Fraser Auditorium.

He believes the youth don't understand the power they hold in Canada.

"The youth hold the balance of power in this country, if they only wanted to be engaged, and if the leaders were there to inspire them."

He had direct advice for students coming out of high school, or with a few years of post-secondary education under their belt.

"Students should take a summer, take a month, take a year, and go into the developing part of the world," he says.

"Don't go visit London, London will always be there, and they built the place on the backs of people anyways."

He stated 80 per cent of the world lives in inhumane conditions. He felt students would be more inspired by visiting the developing nations than they would be by visiting developed nations.

"Go to Africa, go to South America, and see where the bulk of humanity is, then bring that back

with the passion in their eyes," he says.

"The ultimate message for Canadian youth is not to be restricted by the borders of our country."

He believes that technology has changed the face of the world. He was adamant that the world is in a state of change.

"We are in an era of constant change; we are in an era of revolution," Dallaire says.

He took a moment to laugh about the reality of the topic he was discussing.

"A retired general talking about revolution, is not that scary," he joked.

"However, if the good Captain [Ray Wiss] in uniform talked about revolution, he'd be thrown in jail."

He gave an example of how a student at Laurentian University could make a difference in the world.

"You can be a student here, and with a few dollars, buy a

computer and some solar panels, choose a school in a developing country, and install it there with a generator," he says.

"You can actually Skype with the school, and speak with kids in that developing countries where they use black paint as black-boards and don't have enough paper."

He spoke about what post-secondary institutions, such as Laurentian University, could do to affect change in the world.

"The institutions should foster an atmosphere of engagement in the youth, and not of passive, receptacles of information," he says.

He was convinced students would become activists if someone provided them with a vision. He compared the current generation of under-25s to previous generations.

"This generation is a whole different generation, and they'll surpass the 60s generation, by far, because of the global communication tools they have know," he says.

"It's just a matter of them using it, and becoming activists."

He told the audience, not just the youth, to get involved with humanitarian efforts in a practical way, primarily with non-government organizations (NGOs).

"Become an activist, don't just throw cash at it; get your boots dirty," He encouraged the crowd of mostly war veterans, students, and hospital staff.

He spoke about the reasons governments are often remiss to get their own boots dirty, i.e. by sending in troops and supplies.

He argued governments often refuse to get involved in international peacekeeping missions, because of a lack of political will, their own self-interest, or the fear of casualties to their military.

He does not believe the United Nations (UN) is responsible for the failure of the peacekeeping mission in Rwanda, which saw over 800,000 people die due to genocide. **SEE 'DALLAIRE,' PAGE 3**

LAMBDA 2010-2011

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Thoughts on electing a mayor

BY ED VAILLEUX

In the beginning, there were nine candidates running for mayor.

One dropped out, two haven't shown up to any debates and two more haven't been invited back to debates since their first appearance.

That leaves us with a list of four candidates for mayor, who (arguably) have some chance of winning.

The first candidate (we'll do it in alphabetical order to be fair) is Ted Callaghan.

I've known Ted for roughly a year, from covering him at city council and listening to him put time in as Ward 8 councillor.

He has roughly 16 years of experience on council, making him the most experienced candidate in terms of Greater Sudbury's municipal politics.

Callaghan is campaigning on making the city run more efficiently, providing good leadership and championing economic diversity.

The second candidate, of the four we're including, is Marianne Matichuk.

Matichuk has 17 years experience working for the city in various health-related roles, and has worked for Vale as a safety supervisor since 2008.

Matichuk has run on an anti-Rodriguez campaign, focusing on change in city hall. If elected, she promises to attract business and make city hall more responsible with taxpayer dollars.

The third candidate is well known to Sudburians, as he is the incumbent mayor.

John Rodriguez is nearing the end of his four-year run as mayor.

He is running on a campaign of "vision," a frequent buzzword of his. He is pushing Greater Sudbury as a city that cares about culture and the arts. He argues the last four years have been good for the city, and would like to continue on.

Derek Young is the fourth candidate we're including.

Young is a relative unknown on the political stage, but has pushed himself as a candidate for the youth. He is, by far, the most active candidate on the Internet.

He is running on a campaign of civic engagement, youth involvement and pushing the arts.

Listening to the handful of debates between the mayor-hopefuls, there has not been a clear winner. If we took away the bias of knowing their backgrounds, and listened to the messages sent, all

candidates have made points worth noting.

Rodriguez has been the best candidate head-to-head in debates. He's a career politician and he speaks with passion, here or there (keep in mind it's been a boring few debates thus far, even for political junkies).

Callaghan, for all his experience on council, has not wowed me to date in these debates.

Matichuk has tried to go for blood a few times, but has fallen short. Rodriguez has parried all attempts.

Young has made himself almost non-existent at the debates, often coming off as friendly with his opponents.

I know debates are not the be-all and end-all to politics, and it isn't the true measure of a candidate.

The ideas are the important thing.

I encourage you to do a little reading and make an informed decision on Monday, Oct. 25. Vote for a mayor. Whether you vote for a mayor with vision, or a mayor for change, just make sure to vote.

As Joseph A. Schumpeter said: "The ballot is stronger than bullets."

Confessions of a part-time professor II

BY ROBERT BECKETT

I hate marks. I hate giving marks, getting marks and discussing marks.

This attitude began when I was in Grade 1 and has only deepened since. I was never a happy student as I considered schools a prison not an educational facility. In grade school, my teachers learnt to deny my requests for washroom breaks because I would run to the nearby mountain and hide. Also, I had to be escorted to school every morning. This battle finally culminated with the principal telling me that the police would arrest my parents, if my truancy problem didn't stop. Scared sick I never put that threat to the test, but I swore I would never take their stupid 'carrot and stick' marking scheme seriously. To give value to grades would be to validate the whole twisted institution. My hatred of school was iron-clad.

In high school, report cards no longer required a parent's signature and so they went straight into the garbage unopened. From Grade 9 through to my Masters degree, I never looked at another final grade. Learning and grades were two unrelated subjects. Teachers could make sinister references to 'permanent files' or 'future job prospects', but those arbitrary judgements called 'grades' would never mean anything to me.

Neither A+ baited hooks of enslavement, nor searing F shaped brands would find tender flesh inside me. Introverts get savaged by the external world, but they defend their internal world like wolverines. They could make me obey Big Brother (or Cynical Former Nun in my case) but I would never learn to love him.

So when, in a twist of infinite perversity, I became a grade-giver myself, I cared little for marks and assumed that most students shared my disdain.

I have never been so mistaken in my life.

Since my first class I have been made painfully, intimately, aware of how acutely many students feel about marks. I have witnessed students weep, flush red in rage, sink into despair, dance in joy and smile beatifically over my grading of them. And those are only brief public glimpses of what occurs. Whatever my own feelings, I now realize that marks offer teachers a direct line student's self-esteem, hopes, fears

and hearts and bowels; I shutter to contemplate the migraines, bouts of diarrhoea, happy emails to parents and sudden appreciations of sunsets, my grades might have caused.

Occasionally I have wondered if this is what a drug dealer feels like. Yet, a drug dealer must at least give his clients a tangible product unlike professors who simply pull alpha-numeric codes out of a spreadsheet. Maybe a banker is a better comparison, as both professions can dip their ladle into an infinite sea to portion out joy or misery - fearing only the demon of inflation if they are too generous in heart.

Money and grades are akin to fairy gold that turns back to leaves when the spell breaks, the market crashes or graduation occurs. Is the grading system of academia not a set of training wheels for the grading system of capitalism, seamlessly integrated together in the awarding of cold cash for high grades? But it is rash to keep shouting, 'It's just leaves!' when fairy gold keeps you from starving to death on the street or puts a smile across a student's face. Unfortunately, politeness and truth are only occasional companions.

Be it GDP or GPA I will be glad when these crude systems of control disguised as 'objective' measurement shrivel, crack and blow away in the wind. Do you really believe marks and money are 'objective'? That no professor has ever played favourites? That hedge-fund managers deserved 200x the salary of a nurse? That the 'mark-sharks' who become professors, doctors and lawyers are really a wiser class of people? Do you think an 80% given at Laurentian equals the same mark at McGill, or that a mark given in the 1960's equals the same mark given today?

Grade inflation is now so prevalent in academia that the New York Times has reported on how universities and law schools are now grading on a higher curve because it makes their student more attractive to prospective employers and because "if somebody's paying \$150,000 for a law school degree, you don't want to call them a loser at the end". A frank admission of the fearful maxim that guides all corporate service industries, including, increasingly, universities: The customer is always right.

Another Times article

discusses how some professors have taken to giving two marks: the 'official' mark that goes on their transcript and a 'real' mark that reflects the professor's true evaluation. The New York Times might have been wrong on Saddam Hussein having WMDs but they are correct on the subjectivity of grades.

Or wait until you too suffer the costly indignity of writing LSATs or GREs whose basic message is that your university grades mean nothing, that you should have bought an online diploma and spent the last

Since my first class I have been made painfully, intimately, aware of how acutely many students feel about marks. I have witnessed students weep, flush red in rage, sink into despair, dance in joy and smile beatifically over my grading of them.

four years studying for those glorified vocabulary and geometry tests. When my partner had to write her GREs I downloaded pirated copies of the preparation material for her and my conscience was clear.

Dissatisfaction with the whole grading system is not unique to me as recent events at the University of Ottawa illustrate. Denis Rancourt was a physics professor who gave all his 4th year students A's to remove the stress of testing and allow them to focus on the material instead.

Every professor who has poured their heart into a lecture only to be met with a dismissive or fear-ridden 'will this be on the test?' can sympathize with his plight. Rancourt said he wanted to teach "scientists, not automatons", backed up his words with actions and was promptly fired. The dismissal of a tenured professor in the hard sciences for questioning the authority of marks is a chilling precedent. Yet, as I have slowly realized, some academic freedoms are freer than others.

Despite my personal cynicism I have made an uneasy peace with marks over the years. The very trials and tribulations I forced students to endure to achieve marks gives grades a certain weight. Students put their blood, sweat, toil and tears

into earning marks and I've learnt to deeply respect that, if not the grades themselves. I can still recall the penetrating look of one student as I congratulated them for earning the highest mark in my class. He stated with exhausted certainty, "I put in a lot of late nights, I earned this." And he had. When I first discovered these students who loved marks and loved learning I thought they were freaks, but I have encountered them often enough to know that they make up a small but real proportion of the student population. Money and marks are fictions, but the lives of students and workers are real.

Yet, I'm still haunted by the class where I told the students not to worry about their grades because 'I would take care of them' and made good on this promise. Why? Simple, I had no respect for the grading system and I liked making people happy. Being sadistic to students is a time-honoured tradition and a surprising number of students take pleasure in watching a professor tear apart a classmate, but I've never been convinced that terror is conducive to education. Once the students realized I was serious the class atmosphere became electric and that class produced some of the best work I have seen. The dedicated students still rose to the top and the truly apathetic still sank to the bottom, but the oppressive sense of fear was lifted from the silent majority. A positive feedback loop occurred as dormant reservoirs of energy were opened. I wasn't coddling students; I was offering them a different way of learning. The average for that class was 80% and it was earned.

Let me satisfy the haters by saying that my generosity earned me a departmental reprimand and unlike Rancourt I meekly submitted. Sometimes I think that the whole episode was a romantic delusion I dreamed up, but the occasional nostalgic e-mail from students who shared that communal experiment proves otherwise.

It remains for me as a fleeting taste of what lies beyond the confines of iron-clad education.

Robert 'Hobb' Beckett has been a sessional professor for the Philosophy and Sociology Departments since 2002. He is currently enjoying his first non-academic autumn since age 3.

Dallaire sells out Fraser Auditorium

FROM PAGE 1

"It wasn't the U.N. that failed in Rwanda," He says.

"The real failure were the 183 other countries and nation-states that make up the United Nations that decided not to give the U.N. the assets and resources it needed to stop, or prevent, the atrocity."

He argues the international response to atrocities, or looming atrocities, is broken, because it isn't on time.

"I was scrounging money from other missions [before the mission], yet within two months of the end of the genocide, the international community spent just under \$3 billion," He says.

"That is not a good business plan."

Dallaire recounted several personal stories about child soldiers, which brought the crowd to silence.

He recounted a time in Rwanda when he came up to a barrier, which was being protected by child soldiers. The convoy stopped at the barrier, and he opened the door to negotiate.

"[The child] had an AK-47 and he stuck the barrel right up my nose," he recalls.

He remembers the other children shouting, and the child having his finger on the trigger.

"To this day, I still believe the only reason he didn't pull the trigger is that he saw, out of the corner of

his eye, a chocolate bar I had in my hand."

He told the story of a sergeant in a village, who was faced with a grave decision in regards to child soldiers.

The sergeant and his troops went into a small church and found about 100 people still alive.

"I looked into the child's eyes, and what I saw in the eyes of that four-year old boy's eyes was exactly what I saw in the eyes of my four-year old son."

-Romeo Dallaire

"From one side of the village, there are about 30 of these boys with machine guns, and they open fire on the sergeant, his patrol, and the people he's protecting" Dallaire says.

From the other side came 30 girls, some pregnant, heading towards the sergeant. Behind them were another unit of these boy soldiers with machine guns, the General recalled.

"What does the sergeant do?" he asks. "The sergeant doesn't have an evening, he has nano-seconds; the bullets are flying, people are being hit."

Dallaire recalled the story of an individual within the patrol.

"Every now and again, on a dark day, he hears the Sergeant giving the order to fire, and he feels his finger pulling the trigger."

He also feels the gun firing against his shoulder, according to Dallaire.

"Visually, in slow motion, he sees the cartridge flying out, and is looking through the sight, and he sees the head of the child exploding."

Dallaire pauses.

"Was that the right answer?"

Dallaire had a four-year old son when he left for Rwanda, and he pictured his boy in the child soldier's position.

"I looked into the child's eyes, and what I saw in the eyes of that four-year old boy's eyes was exactly what I saw in the eyes of my four-year old son," he says.

"They were the eyes of a human child."

He is hoping that people begin to understand one simple, underlying fact of humanity.

"All humans are human," he says.

"There ain't one of us that is more human than the other."

He believes understanding this would eventually lead to a new method of trying to make peace in the world.

"It's an era of conflict resolution, but hopefully we'll have enough smarts to get into conflict prevention," he says.

SGA presents tentative budget

BY CALLAM RODYA

The SGA Executive convened an annual general meeting on Oct. 6 to vote on a projected \$285,000 budget for the 2010-2011 school year. The meeting, chaired by SGA president Samantha Pitzel, was attended by some 20 SGA members in room L-239, near the Student Centre.

After some preamble by Pitzel, Casey Lalonde (vice-president, issues), Colleen Keaney (vice-president, services), and Isabelle Legault (office coordinator) and SGA executive director Deborah Frankel presented a tentative working budget that would see an estimated \$279,000 in student fees and other revenues put towards various SGA programs and services.

These expenditures ranged from \$155,000 in salaries and benefits for SGA employees, to \$13,392 for services including the frosh concert and upcoming charity ball. One particular area of contention among those in attendance was a projected \$22,500 expenditure for the Voyageur Athletic Therapy Clinic located in the Ben Avery Physical Education Centre, a service which many attendees raised concerns about for its apparent niche benefit and high cost.

Frankel also announced that the SGA had successfully reduced its insurance policy expenditure from an estimated \$30,000 in 2009-2010 to \$12,400 for the 2010-2011 year.

Despite some objections to its tentative nature and some specific expenditures, the budget was passed by those in attendance and will form the basis for the official SGA 2010-2011 budget. Frankel pointed out that the SGA had yet to receive the revenue from student fees described by the budget and that adjustments may be made, details of which would be released at a later time.

Other topics raised during the meeting were the new University-Four Corners bus (see article in the Oct. 7 print edition of Lambda), new furniture for the Student Centre, and the Coffee Club. Legault reminded attendees that Oct. 8 is the final day to opt out of the SGA health plan and described a new online bulletin board for students to post notices and classifieds.

A more concrete SGA budget is to be released sometime in November.

BUDGET FACTS

- worth an estimated (and projected) \$285,000, collected in student fees and other revenue
- highest expense is \$155,000 in salaries and benefits for SGA employees
- budget is still tentative and subject to change

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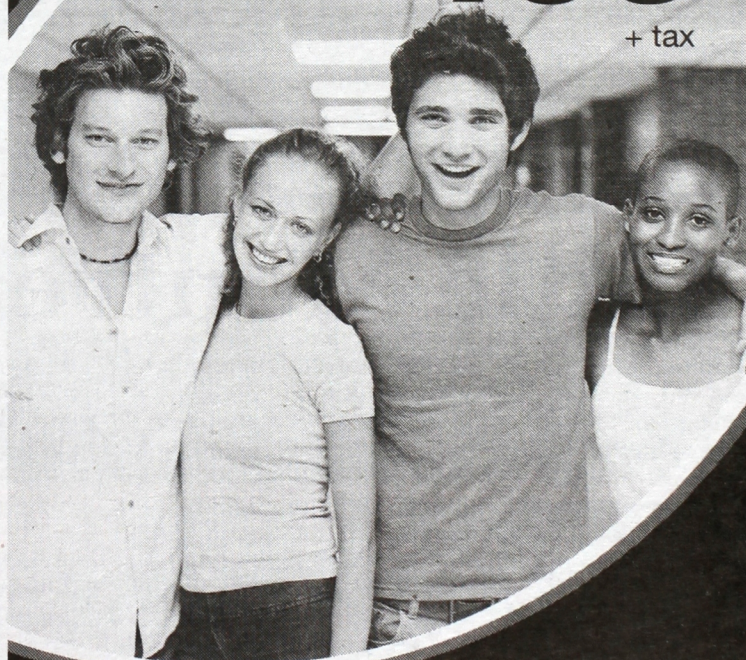
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LAMBDA -SPOTLIGHT-

Matt Foy launches album



Photo by Callam Rodya

Matt Foy performs while launching his new album at the Townehouse Tavern.

BY CALLAM RODYA

On Friday, Oct. 8, one of Sudbury's best known musical talents, Matt Foy, launched a new album at the Townehouse Tavern to a crowd of prom-themed attendees. The quirky-packaged "Shine" is a collection of 20 original tracks by Foy recorded and engineered at Cosmic Dave's Sound Emporium in Sudbury.

This is Foy's second original album, though he has performed original and cover material for decades in Sudbury and across the

country.

Matt's musical journey began when he received a brand new Yamaha acoustic guitar at age 11. Within a few months, his parents were experiencing the lyrics of Pink Floyd and the enthusiasm of a Grade 7 rock band in their basement. That was the start of an ongoing love affair with music and performing.

During school years Matt was busy as a part-time ski instructor but he always found time for music, his number one passion. As his talents

developed, his venues grew larger and his popularity as a musician and vocalist grew.

He has developed into a multi talented artist, playing guitar, banjo, ukulele, drums, mandolin and percussion as well as vocals. He released his first solo record in 2004, featuring original songs on all of the above instruments.

An appealing facet of Matt's talent is his ability to adapt vocally and instrumentally to many different styles of music - as diverse as his own heritage (Irish, Norwegian,

Swedish and Polish). He has traveled in Canada and the U.S. with the Smokers, a highly rated ska band, and with Zabava, one of the best polka bands in North America. He recently toured Ireland and England as a drummer with Ox, a west coast folk/rock band. At home, he has regular gigs at The Townehouse Tavern as a solo artist and with a variety of bands featuring Reggae, Bluegrass, Rock and Surf music. Matt has also been a frequent performer at the Northern Lights Festival Boréal and Summerfest

Festivals in Sudbury. He continues to write and to experiment with other styles and instruments.

Over 20 years later, he still carries his well-worn Yamaha acoustic guitar and loves to "jam" with his Dad and entertain friends and family at home.

"Shine" is available for \$9.99 at cdbaby.com/cd/mattfoy. Check out Matt Foy Music on Facebook and MySpace.

Minotaurs march into Little Montreal

BY CALLAM RODYA

What do you get when you combine ex-Rheostatic and current Ron Sexsmith drummer/producer Don Kerr, with Holy Fuck and King Cobb Steelie bassist Kevin Lynn, Feuermusik, Canaille and go-to indie-rock-session saxophonist Jeremy Strachan, guitar duelling brother tandem of Dan and Ryan Levecque, and indie-songwriter Nathan Lawr? Answer: MINOTAURS, appearing courtesy of SGA's Art Support Nov. 6 at Little Montreal.

Inspired heavily by the work of legendary Nigerian musician Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, MINOTAURS take the funky, slinky backbone of afrobeat and apply it to the indie-rock-folk songs of Nathan Lawr. Its propulsive rhythms and syncopated horn arrangements are

catchy, inspiring, and mind-boggling funky all at once.

Featuring appearances from vocalists and songwriters Bry Webb of Constantines fame and Gavin Gardiner of The Wooden Sky, and Hylozoists mastermind Paul Aucoin, MINOTAUR's new album, *The Thing*, is a record about the invisible powers that hold us together and pulls us apart. It is a rhythmic exploration of the kind only a band full of drummers could make! Engineered and co-produced by Don Kerr, *The Thing* was written and arranged by Nathan Lawr, who has drummed with many of Canada's brightest stars like Constantines, FemBots, Royal City, and Feist. Howie Beck (who produced albums for Hayden, Jason Collett, and Matthew Barber) also lends his mixing talents to

the project; and Andy Magoffin, who is known best for his work with his own band, Two Minute Miracles, and his production work for Jim Guthrie and Great Lake Swimmers, was behind the mastering.

It is an ambitious and captivating sound. It is truly a new strain in the Canadian indie-rock genealogy. Part funk, part psychedellic, part protest record, *The Thing* will knock you off your feet while gently caressing you in the process. Collectively, the members of MINOTAURS have been nominated for 10 Junos.

Advanced tickets to the event are \$8 and available at the SGA office, Cosmic Daves, and Fromagerie. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information, visit minotaursband.com.

LU concert band presents first performance of year

The Laurentian Concert Band, under the direction of Sally Lesk, is pleased to present its first performance of the current school year, *All the Things We Are*, on Friday November 12, at 7:30 pm at the Alphonse Raymond Auditorium at Laurentian University. This is Concert #3 of the Laurentian Concert Series.

The band has been exploring the diversity of concert band repertoire, from a transcription of a work by J.S. Bach, through to a piece of rhythmic African music, two very contrasting 21st-century Canadian compositions, a bit of classic standard concert band repertoire, and even some movie music!

The Laurentian Concert Band numbers 45 musicians, including music majors, non-music majors and many members of the Sudbury community. They are very excited to have the opportunity to share *All the Things We Are*.

Tickets are just \$10 for general admission, and \$5 for students/seniors, available at the door.

For more info, contact Sally Lesk, 522-0951, slesk@laurentian.ca

Halloween haunts

BY CALLAM RODYA

Halloween has always been a big event. When we were kids, we got dressed up in cute little costumes (sometimes with our winter coats over-top) and went around the neighborhood filling pillowcases or plastic jack-o'-lanterns with our loot.

Nowadays, we still dress up, but our pallets have matured since. Instead of candy, we've moved on to lots and lots of booze. Halloween provides some of the biggest parties of the year. Here's a quick rundown of some of the bigger events taking place Halloween weekend.

SPAD/SGA 2010 Halloween Bash

Where: Pub Downunder
When: Nov. 2 @ 9 p.m.
Who: 19+

This is the official SGA-sponsored Halloween party at our very own Pub Downunder. It takes place a couple days after Halloween

proper so you can still take in a few others parties beforehand. Plus, the best group costume will win free beer for a year! There are other prizes available for best male and female costumes plus a raffle and games. Get your tickets at the SGA and SPAD offices as well as in front of the Great Hall Oct. 18-21, Nov. 1, and Nov. 2.

Ten Night Club presents Devils Night/Halloween Screamer

Where: Ten Night Club
When: Oct. 30 @ 10 p.m.
Who: 19+

TEN is well-known for throwing one of the hottest Halloween parties of the year. DJ's Harley & Grover will be spinning all your favorite Top 40, House and Dance favorites on the main dance floor and just across the main bar DJ Double D will be playing the best of Soca, Dancehall, & Hip Hop. There are cash prizes for best single, pair and group costumes! Dress

up and win your share of amazing prizes! Best of all, there's no cover! Call 566-3601 for more details.

Devil's Night Patio Party at the Laughing Buddha

Where: The Laughing Buddha
When: Oct. 30 @ 9 p.m.
Who: 19+

Looking for a more low-key Halloween bash? Head to the Laughing Buddha for some Devil's Night fun with "Spooky Spirits", "Corrupt Cocktails", and "Tasty Treats". The patio will be warmed up or this evening of mischief and madness. This will be the best way to get yourself ready to party with all the Ziggy Stardusts at the Townehouse! For details, call 673-2112.

The David Bowie Halloween Party at the Townehouse

Where: The Townehouse Tavern
When: Oct. 31 @ 9 p.m.

Who: 19+

Another one of Sudbury's signature Halloween events, this is a colossal party in which the fine people of Sudbury always go to the limits of imagination. This year, the music party will be in the realm of the freaky stylings of David Bowie. The house musicians have wanted to do a David Bowie night for some time and Halloween seemed like the perfect night for a bunch of Scary Monsters and Super Creeps. The only drawback? A \$7 cover a the door. However, the best costume of the night wins free cover for a year! For more information, email paul@thetownehouse.com.

Of course, there are other events around the city that are sure to stir up your Halloween festivities. Of course, please enjoy Halloween responsibly - don't drink and drive and don't scare anyone to death!

Letter: day of information

It has almost become a tradition on November 5th that every willing student skips their classes and heads down town with placards and megaphones to speak up to the government about the rising cost of education. But this year you will not be seeing a crowd of protesters waving their signs and crying out against rising tuition fees. 2010 is a year of retreat; a time to reflect on the work we have done and the progress we have made over the past several years. But rest assured, the Education is a Right has something great planned for you.

This year on November 5th, the GSA, AEF, LAMPS and the SGA will be holding a Day of Information. To get started, there will be an open mic from 11am - 2pm in the Student Center. Everyone is welcome to bring their musical talents, spoken words, or stories about their frustrations with the education system as it stands. Afterwards, there will be informative workshops where anyone can come and learn more about the current issues plaguing post secondary education. After the workshops, there will be a screening of the film titled "Poor no More". Hosted by TV and film star Mary Walsh, Poor No More offers an engaging look at

Canadians stuck in low paying jobs with no security and no future. Mary then takes us on a journey to Ireland and Sweden so we can see how these countries have tackled poverty while strengthening their economies. It offers hope to those who have to work two jobs a day and to those who cant find work [taken from website]. This is a documentary you do not want to miss.

To make things better, all you students have ACADEMIC AMNESTY! That's right! You can skip class without penalty on November 5th in order to attend this epic day of fun and learning! In addition to this, we are also going to feed you hungry students! There will be free pizza at 12:30 pm during the open mic session, and many delicious snacks at the film screening taking place at 6:00pm.

CASEY J. LALONDE
SGA'S VP ISSUES

Sudbury's first chocolate show

BY GREEN SUDBURY

Sudbury is in for a treat with the 1st Sudbury Chocolate and Confections Show Saturday, October 30 (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) at the Y.M.C.A Parkside O.A.C. and a reverse Trick or Treat Halloween Fair Trade Chocolate Fondue and Film from 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

To mark the occasion we have created a Chocolate first for Sudbury - Exclusive Big Nickel Chocolate Coins molded from the famous 1951 nickel - How cool is that!

Our Menu: All at the Y.M.C.A O.A.C. Sudburian's can sample alternative Carob or Cacao nibs, NorthWest Fudge Factory's Guinness world Book of Record Fudge, Indonesian Ganache or Truffles, Cashew ice cream or Yogurt cakes, covered goni or mulberries, International Hot Chocolates, brittle, macaroons, Peanut butter clusters, root beer Licorice, brownies... well you get the picture!

SOMA has been voted Toronto's #1 Chocolate by NOW magazine 3 years running with hundreds of exclusive confections using

a traditional 'bean to bar' process and we are delighted to bring David Castellan's Fair Trade Revolution, and SOMA Chocolate line to his hometown for the first time ever.

Our evening GreenSudbury Salon de Chocolat Fundraiser from 7:30 - 10:30 features a Fair Trade Fondue and Film with Peruvian Chocolate from Ottawa's La Siembra Cacao Camino workers cooperative and the Canadian premier of The Dark Side of Chocolate, a behind-the-scenes documentary into allegations of child labor in the chocolate industry.

With kind permission from Danish Director Miki Mistrati this will be the Canadian premiere screening to promote the Fair Trade for Halloween Reverse Trick-or-Treating Campaign as trick-or-treaters across Canada will hand chocolate back to the homeowners they visit as part of a Global Fair Trade Cocoa Campaign.

Health Promotion: We'll be showcasing Dairy and Gluten-Free, raw, organic, vegan and unprocessed cold pressed Xoçai chocolate as well as Healthy Chocolate Guru David

Wolfe's Sacred Chocolate line. David was in Sudbury last year as a Fundraiser for the Sudbury Rotary Club and we are happy to have his amazing Chocolate available once again

Free Tickets available with the purchase of a Chocolate Item at Cambrian College's

Fontaine Blue, Tin Can Alley, Regency Bakery, YMCA Harmony Café, Walrus Underground, Fromagerie Elgin, Boulangerie on Elgin, Village International Sudbury, Little Montreal, Old Rock Café, Body Worxs, Bitter Bills ice Cream Parlor, Contact InterCultural, Northern Flavours.

STC presents Vigil

BY CALLAM RODYA

In Vigil, Sudbury Theatre Centre's second production of the new season, humor is found in an uncommon subject - death.

Long-lost newphew, Kemp, has left his dreary bank job upon receipt of a letter from aunt Grace urging him to come quickly to her death bed. When he arrives, he makes it clear that he is primarily interested in her, post-mortem. Canadian playwright Morris Panych's script is a perceptive, funny and wise character study.

Vigil, directed by Sudbury Theatre Centre's David Savoy and stage managed by Charlene Saroyan, plays Nov. 4 - 14. Savoy is pleased to present Richard Sheridan Willis to Sudbury audiences.

Willis, who performs the lead role Kemp, trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in England and has performed in London, New York City, Toronto and on British, American and

Canadian television. He has appeared on both Law & Order and Flashpoint. He recently moved to the Sudbury area, living in St. Charles with his wife and daughters.

Playing the part of Aunt Grace is Linda Goranson, who appeared last year in STC's Leading Ladies and Half Life.

Set design is by Sean Mulcahy, described as "One of Canada's leading young designers," who has been associated with the Stratford Festival for several years. Costume design is by STC resident designer Charlotte Robertson with lighting design by guest artist Travis Hatt.

Vigil, by Morris Panych, who also wrote the widely-acclaimed The Overcoat, plays at 8 p.m. nightly and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 7, a pay-what-you-can matinee. Tickets, which range in price from \$18.50 for students to \$29.25 for seniors and \$34.50 for adults, are available by phoning the box office at 674-8381 ext 21.

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Lady Vees stalling as playoffs approach

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

The Laurentian Lady Vees drew 0-0 with the Ottawa Gee-Gees on Sunday, Oct. 17, in Ottawa.

The Lady Vees were able to keep the fifth ranked Ottawa Gee-Gee's offense off the score sheet.

"It was a playoff type game and the girls played quite well," head coach Rob Gallo says.

"We are quite ecstatic with the tie here in Ottawa today."

The Laurentian Lady Vees came from behind to earn a 1-1 draw against the Carleton Ravens on Saturday, Oct. 16.

Dayna Corelli set up a goal by Alana Brady in the 50th minute, which was good enough to achieve the tie.

The Lady Vees lost their games versus Toronto on Oct. 8 by a score of 3-0, and against Ryerson on Oct. 9 by a score of 1-0.

They now sit at 20 points, which is good for fifth place in the East division of the OUA.

The Lady Vees play at home against the RMC Paladins on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The ladies play their last game of the regular season on Sunday, Oct. 24 at home against Queen's. Game times are set for 12 p.m.

Voyageurs gaining steam for playoffs

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

The Laurentian Voyageurs earned their second straight road victory, Saturday, Oct. 16, with a 1-0 win over the Carleton Ravens, who are ranked.

The game turned in Laurentian's favour in the 73rd minute when Derek Lang set up a goal by Trevor Beange off of a counter attack.

"It was another good game by the boys to knock off the fifth ranked team in the country," said head coach Carlo Castrechino, "We had a strong game today from Trevor Beange, and especially Daniel O'Connor."

The Voyageurs lost their Oct. 8 match-up with Toronto by a score of 3-1, but won their Oct. 9 tilt with Ryerson 1-0.

They now sit at 17 points, which is good for sixth place in the East division of the OUA.

The Voyageurs play at home against the RMC Paladins on Saturday, Oct. 23. Game time is set for 2:15p.m.

The men play their last game of the regular season on Sunday, Oct. 24 at home against Queen's. Game time is also set for 2:15p.m.

Intramural information and results

Snow Shoeing Registration BY ASHLEY MCGEE

Once again Laurentian University is holding a Wilderness Snow Shoeing Intramural event this winter. The event will be held on Friday Jan. 21 and Friday Jan. 28 from 1:30 to 3:30. All full time Laurentian University students are welcome to come out whether they are beginners or seasoned participants. This Intramural Program is non-competitive and gives Laurentian University students an opportunity to meet people from different programs and learn about the wilderness at the same time. The cost is only \$2 and all participants will be provided with snacks and warm beverages. Registration for snow shoeing starts Nov. 8 in the Department of Active Living Office. The office is located in Room 109, next to the gym, in the Ben Avery Building's new wing. Take advantage of this great opportunity and come on out!

Indoor Soccer Registration BY LACHLAN MACGREGOR

There will be a COED Intramural Indoor Soccer League running from Jan. 5 to 27. Registration will be taking place from Nov. 8 to 12 in the Department of Active Living office at the Ben

Avery Building, in Room 109. The cost will be \$25 per team. There will be plenty of great prizes, as well as many fun theme nights! The league will be both competitive and non-competitive. Be sure to sign up your team as soon as possible, because this is one of the most popular intramural sports on campus. Each team must have a minimum of two females and no more than one varsity soccer player. The Department of Active Living staff and students are looking forward to a great season- Game on!

Outdoor intramural soccer results BY PHILIP STEEPER

On Saturday October 16th and Sunday October 17th, the Laurentian University Intramural Program hosted another successful outdoor soccer tournament. The tournament, which was held on the Laurentian University soccer fields was for all full time Laurentian University students and consisted of two divisions, competitive and non competitive. The non-competitive division consisted of ten teams and played on Sunday. Although the competition was tough and the games close, The Habs were able to defeat The Family to claim the 2010 non competitive division with a thrilling 5-4 shootout victory. In the competitive division there were six

teams competing for the title. After a hard fought battle in the round robin, Extreme Shake n' Bake and ITTIHAD emerged on top and matched up for the final game. With both teams firing on all cylinders, the game came to an exciting finish with Extreme Shake n' Bake taking the title in a close win. For the bronze medal game, Young Guns United and The Gunners dug in their heels and poured on the heat, creating a suspenseful end with Young Guns United taking the game 5-4 in a shootout.

LU Intramural Sports Information BY DOROTHY PITZEL

The Laurentian University, Intramural Sports Program is designed to provide varied recreational sports for both male and female full time students. In addition, it provides employment opportunities for a large number of student officials. The Program is sponsored by the Department of Active Living and is student driven. The emphasis is on participation as opposed to winning but friendly competition is always a part of the various events.

The current program is characterized by an "open system". Entries for teams or individuals are not restricted to a school or residence

affiliations. This model has broadened the base of participation and contributed to the success of the program.

Registrations are done in the Department of Active Living, room 109, during normal business hours. Entry forms may be picked up in that office in advance of registration periods. All master schedules give details of the open periods for registration and the number of competitors required. Entry dates for various sports are set for the most part. Late entries may be accepted only to fill a league or due to extraordinary circumstances with the approval of the Manager of the Department of Active Living or the Intramural Coordinator.

To be eligible, participants

must be full time students, with Active Living Centre memberships in good standing. For team sport entries, a group must have an appointed captain/manager (contact person), and must have the minimum number of eligible individual participants registered prior to the entry closing date. Please note that only one varsity player from the sport to be played, may be on each team.

Come out and join the fun. You will meet many new friends and stay in shape too.

If you have any questions, or wish to inquire about Intramural job opportunities for officials, please email dpitzel@laurentian.ca or call 675-1151 ext. 1018 during regular business hours.

Sports wrap-up

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

Women's cross-country running

The Laurentian University women's cross-country running team competed in New York this weekend, placing at the Yellowjacket Invitational, hosted by the University of Rochester.

The Lady Vees squad all ran season's bests, with Tetzlaff placing 17th overall with a time of 19:07 over the five-kilometer course. Emma Tallman and Stephanie Flieler placed 29th and 30th with times of 19:26 and 19:32 respectively. Katie Maziariski followed with a 39th place in 20:10 and rookie Alyssa Bedard rounded out the scoring with a 76 second personal best of 21:15 and a 58th place finish.

"It's always fun racing across the border," said head coach Dick Moss.

"Our runners keep improving and we should be in top form for the OUA [championships] in two weeks."

The Lady Vees next race is the OUA Championships, to be held in

Guelph on October 30th.

Women's basketball

The Laurentian Lady Vees basketball team wrapped up the Victoria Inn Invitational tournament on Sunday morning with a 76-48 loss to Bishop's University.

The team won the first game of the Lakehead tournament against Winnipeg on Friday night, and also suffered a loss against host team Lakehead prior to Sunday's tilt.

The Lady Vees next pre-season game is against Wilfrid Laurier on Nov. 2.

Men's basketball

The Laurentian Voyageurs basketball team dropped two exhibition games in British Columbia last weekend.

The Voyageurs lost to UFV by a score of 89-61. The team also lost to UBC 108-55.

The men play their next pre-season game against Dalhousie University Friday, Oct. 22 at Laurentian.

Female Athletes of the week

Lady Vees soccer player Brian

Leah-Marie Ramalho has been named female athlete of the week beginning on Oct. 4.

Ramalho, a first year Environmental Earth Science student, is a defender for the Lady Vees.

Lady Vees soccer player Carlie Bettiol has been named female athlete of the week.

Bettiol, the first year Sports and Physical Education student, has recently moved into the position of right back with the team.

Male athletes of the week

Voyageurs soccer player Daniel O'Connor has been named male athlete of the week for the week beginning on Oct. 11.

O'Connor, a second-year Concurrent Education student, is also second-year player with the Voyageurs.

Voyageurs soccer player Brian Kavaratzis has been named male athlete of the week beginning on Oct. 4.

Kavaratzis, a third year Arts student, is a defender for the

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NOSM strike continues

BY CALLAM RODYA

It was over, and then it wasn't. Only days after a tentative agreement was reached between the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and striking support staff of OPSEU Local 677, and Ramsey Lake Road was cleared of picket lines, the deal was rejected and the strike resumed where it had left off.

On Oct. 12, 76.8 percent of OPSEU employees voted against the deal that would have seen them returning to work just after Thanksgiving. About 150 clerical, administrative, and technical workers have been on strike at the Laurentian campus and the campus of Lakehead University in Thunder

Bay since Aug. 16.

The tentative agreement was reached on Oct. 3 after a round of late-night bargaining between the two parties. At the time, Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM dean, called it "an intense process" and expressed relief that a tentative agreement had been reached.

However, it would be a short-lived intermission from an ongoing labour dispute that has riled the tempers of LU students and staff alike. Now, it seems, the delays of moving on and off campus will remain a fixture indefinitely.

Although no new negotiations have been scheduled between NOSM and OPSEU Local

677, Tyler England, OPSEU's bargaining chair has stated that he is ready to return to the bargaining table anytime.

In the meantime, striking workers are back out in full-force at the LU main entrance and South Bay entrance, stopping motorists and handing out leaflets. City of Greater Sudbury Transit vehicles have also resumed their stops off campus, avoiding the picket lines altogether during daytime routes.

Students and staff are being encouraged to leave early to allow time to get through the picket lines.

Letters to the editor

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR: LOCAL THURSDAYS

As the president of Laurentian University's Sustainable Earth Club, you can imagine how copiously I drooled when I heard about Local Thursdays, stemming from a new partnership between the SGA, Aramark, and Eat Local Sudbury. They've promised to offer a dish made from local produce every Thursday in the Great Hall and Alumni Hall cafeterias, and in the Pub Down Under from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. After sweetly hinting to my professor that she should let us out of class a bit early, my eco-conscious friends and I hurried to the pub and bought the last few bowls of fall harvest soup. The soup was divine, and for those who indulge, it was

accompanied by rich local wine. We chatted with Eat Local Sudbury staff, who told us the first sale had been a success. For me, having food from a small, local vendor on campus is a dream come true, and I'd like to thank Sam Pitzel, our SGA president, from the bottom of my satisfied heart. Change toward a sustainable future is happening slowly but inexorably, and we have a chance to prove that students are hungry for this change. So make a lunch date for next Thursday with your friends, and get a true taste of what our land has to offer.

HARNEET GILL
SUSTAINABLE EARTH CLUB PRESIDENT

FIRST MALE CANADIAN SAINT

At 4 am Oct. 17, thousands of people crammed into the crypt at the St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. They participated in an all night vigil and watched the live video stream from the Vatican of the canonization of Quebec legend, Brother André. The crowd burst into wild cheering as the Pope declared him the first male Canadian saint.

Brother André was a humble doorman, known to be in constant prayer with St. Joseph and reportedly

had the ability to heal. He built the massive Oratory for St. Joseph and died in 1937 at the age of 91. Beside his tomb, thousands of crutches and canes line the chapel left by those he healed. Separate from his body, on the fourth floor, in an ornate display of silver, glass and red light rests his pickled heart. Over 2 million folks each year come to look at the floating organ, that was famously stolen but returned in 1974.

JEN MACINTYRE



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Leading a dual life

BY ED VEILLEUX

In comics, Peter Parker may suit up as Spider-man and web through New York at night, but he isn't the only one with a dual identity.

Most nights, professor Andrew Muncaster trades in his books for a

guitar.

Teaching a class on technology, Muncaster drops the famous Spider-man line "with great power comes great responsibility," referring to how human responsibilities and ethics need to be

updated to take into account modern life.

He's an animated professor, often throwing his hands up to emphasize his points, or exaggerating to really drive a point home.

Muncaster has a philosophy on the goal of higher education.

"The goal of education is to make people into better people, to expand horizons. By no means do you need a formal education to do that, I don't want to sound like an elitist, but traditionally, that was the intention."

If Muncaster had his way, he would inspire every student he taught, and everyone who heard his band perform.

"I try to kindle a flame and awaken a desire for learning, for knowledge. The hope is that all the students in your class can be inspired."

The 33-year-old Laurentian University professor has a stocky build, and on some days, like today, he trades in his usual dress shirts for a casual, brown sweater.

He has a shaved head and a trimmed goatee, and would not be hard to mistake for a student if he wasn't up teaching at the front of the class.

Muncaster teaches Religious Studies and Philosophy courses at Thorneloe University and the University of Sudbury, respectively, and has been for two years.

He was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, but ended up going to school in southern Ontario and finished his doctorate in religious studies at McMaster University.

Afterwards, he taught at Algoma University in the Sault, and then out at Memorial University on the East Coast, before coming to Laurentian University.

Aside from educating, Muncaster writes songs.

"Teaching and writing are two heads of the same coin," he said.

"When I write, the goal is to inspire people. It's the same as teaching."

Muncaster makes sure to devote time to his art, even when his work schedule is hectic.

"I try to devote at least an hour or so every day (to writing). Sometimes nothing comes out, sometimes I just can't stop and I push everything back."

Balancing teaching with song writing can be a challenge, Muncaster said.

"Now that I've become more involved as a teacher, it's changed because I sort of fit it in where I can, and there are days where I don't write at all. Not to sound cheesy, but I write when it comes, when it shows up. I'm a firm believer that most art, in whatever form, doesn't even come from inside, it's sort of floating out there and you just kind of grab onto it. And there are days you can perceive that better and days that you can't."

And when writing is going well for Muncaster, sleep can sometimes take a backstage to his art.

"There are people who need lots and lots of sleep, but I'm not really one of those people. For me, it's pretty easy to go to sleep at two and wake up at seven or eight. Maybe not for seven or eight days in a row, but I can do it and get by for a few days. Most of my better writing, most of my better thoughts to begin with, happen later."

The creative process is sporadic, Muncaster said, much like teaching can be.

"Some days are better than others, like teaching. Some days you can't explain anything. Then there are other days where all the students are nodding and you can tell you're reaching them, that they're being inspired."

Muncaster has been writing since he was 13.

He started writing when he

was working at a United church camp, near Thessalon, Ont. There was a group of older workers who would write and play songs for those at the camp.

He learned to play the guitar and started writing songs to share around the campfire.

"Over the years, I got a lot of support, so I kept doing it."

One of the camp workers was Frank Deresti.

Deresti and Muncaster have recorded several albums together, the latest in 2007, as the Granola People.

"We were sitting around, thinking we should get a band together and trying to think of what the name of the band should be. We were out of ideas. Later on that night, (Deresti's) sister came home from university and said, 'you guys are just sitting around wearing sandals, you guys are just a bunch of granola people.' It stuck with us ever since."

The Granola People came out with *Down the Road* in 1996, which won some acclaim, according to Muncaster. The group was featured on CBC locally, and on breakfast television shows in Toronto.

"The Granola People is one of those weird things. We've all gone our separate ways. We're still good buddies, but he's in the Sault and I'm here (in Sudbury). But it's funny because we keep coming back and creating. We're so used to playing music together that when we get together we just play music."

As far as selling records, Muncaster said the group has never been about making money.

"We do it for the love of it. If we make any extra money, we put it towards our next record."

The goal for Muncaster, he said, is front and center in both his teaching and music.

"It's about inspiration, in the end, because that's what makes the world go 'round.'"



Photo supplied

Andrew Muncaster performs as a member of the Granola People.

LU grad set to experience Ireland

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

Recent Laurentian graduate Avery Canapini wanted to explore Europe, but wasn't too keen on the traditional backpacking route commonly taken by students.

"Everyone says 'I want to go backpacking through Europe,' but I didn't really want to go backpacking," Canapini joked.

Canapini, a Liberal Science graduate from Laurentian, came across an email about living in Europe on a one-year exchange, which caught her attention.

The program, called Travel Cuts, and it has been in existence for over 40 years.

"You can go as a student or a non-student, and it's through the Canadian government, so you know it's legit," she says.

They have a list of countries a person can travel to, and she eventually settled on Ireland.

Ireland wasn't her first choice, however.

"I looked at France first, because I was in French immersion, but the cost of living in Paris was ridiculous," she says.

"Then I looked at England and it was also expensive."

Even though it wasn't her first choice destination, and her family doesn't understand it, she was

excited about the prospect of going to Ireland.

"I always wanted to go [to Ireland], even though my Italian family doesn't understand it," she laughed.

"One of the main reasons I picked Ireland was, because it's an English-speaking country."

She admits their English can be a little hard to understand at times, having had some distant relations, but isn't letting that bother her.

"It does take a little while [to get used to the accents], but it's something you can pick up on," she says.

Canapini will be travelling with a friend of hers, and says he was excited about going to Ireland, which helped solidify her decision.

Canapini would like to work while she's in Ireland, so she can live there for the entire year without any financial issues.

The current job market in Ireland has her a little worried.

"It's not great right now," she admitted.

The prospect of finding a place to live also has her a little worried, but she's hoping the advice of her travel agent will help.

"The travel agent was saying there's a swap headquarters run by

the Irish government, and they have job postings and apartment postings, among other things," she says.

"The service is put on for people doing this program, so hopefully we won't have too hard of a time finding a job."

She's been doing some reading in preparation for the trip. She started with travel books.

"I found a book called *Living and Working in Ireland*, though it's probably a bit out of date," she says.

She's also been reading some other books about Ireland.

"I've been reading a little bit of history, but I'm trying to stay away from politics," she joked.

"I don't want to know everything when I go over there, I want to learn as I go."

More than anything, she's excited for the experience that awaits her.

"I want to do something that's completely out of character for me, and out of my comfort zone," she says.

"There wasn't really a whole lot of planning involved, it just sort of happened."

The fact that she doesn't know anyone, or have any attachment to Ireland specifically, was critical for her.

"I don't know anyone in

Ireland, I don't have anywhere to stay, so it's going to be sort of like a clean slate," she says.

She joked about being worried, and how she gets that from her mother.

"I try not to, because I'm hearing her saying it in my head," she laughed.

She has never lived on her own, and felt it was time for that defining moment in her life.

"This was it, and I decided if I was going to do it, I was going to do it with a bang," she says.

She believes it is time for her to leave the city, and it wouldn't have been enough of an experience for her to just move out locally.

"I grew up in Sudbury, I went to school in Sudbury, I went to University in Sudbury," she says. "I need to go far away."

She has spent time studying the Irish climate so she would know what she would need to bring for clothing.

"It's pretty similar to here, but it's a little more wet and cold, and snowy and cold," she says.

She is planning to bring DVDs, some photos, her laptop, and a little projector for entertainment.

She is also planning on bringing a special item with her, her childhood stuffed animal, Muttsy.

"It's a little brownish dog, that I've had forever," she says. "He's a little thread-bare, he's balding."

She is used to being on the road, because of her experiences as a competitive curler.

"I used to do a lot of travelling when I curled competitively, and I used to have to pack all my curling gear and my clothing and entertainment together," she says.

"I'm pretty good at packing."

She is being careful not to pack anything that will cause her problems at the security terminal. She recalled an experience when she used to curl.

"I remember flying home from Winnipeg, and the security guard throwing out my compass because it had a needle on it," she says.

Apparently the experience wasn't too traumatic, as she will be (tentatively) leaving for Ireland Nov. 26.

As much as she wants to be spur-of-the-moment with the whole plan, she has made a back-up plan.

"If we can't find a job within a month, we decided we'll do whatever travelling we wanted to do, and then we'll go home," she says.

"It wouldn't be a huge loss, because the whole plan was a working vacation anyways."